

# **GENDER EQUALITY IN UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

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**Abstract.** Existing mechanisms and tools for gender equality in Ukraine are still imperfect. It does not allow much to counteract gender inequality, eradicate existing role stereotypes women and men in society, and enable them to achieve their goals in full public policy on creating conditions for the realization of equal rights and opportunities for women and men. Gender inequality exacerbates political, socio-economic, cultural and other problems in society. In view of this, the purpose of the work is to perform a comparative analysis of gender equality in Ukraine in the context of European integration.

**Keywords:** gender, equality, economy, women, men, society.

**INTRODUCTION.** An integral part of the democratic development of any society, including Ukrainian society, is the movement towards gender equality and the elimination of all forms of gender discrimination.

Without achieving gender equality that makes sense in an economic, social and political point of view, ensuring sustainable development today is impossible. An increase in economically active population by women's participation expansion in all spheres of society, both sexes' potential usage, contributes to the community's economic growth and sustainable development. Gender equality is purely economic because if a country uses the full potential of the entire population, it cannot be successful economically.

**RESULTS.** Equal participation of women and men in all spheres of life of society and the state is an important guarantee for the consolidation of democracy in Ukraine and the guarantee of its European integration. Formation and regulation of state policy on gender equality are carried out in accordance with international obligations and legislation of Ukraine. According to the Law of Ukraine "On Equal Rights and Opportunities for Men and Women", gender equality is interpreted as equal legal status of women and men and the equal opportunities for its realization, which allows individuals of both sexes to participate equally in all spheres of society (Martseniuk, 2014). Gender relations pervade the whole culture, social system,

state institutions, decision-making methods, and thinking style.

According to the World Economic Forum report, Ukraine ranks 63rd out of 134 countries in terms of gender equality. This annual survey determines the balance between women's and men's participation in the economic and political life of countries, as well as in access to education and health. The criteria for determining gender equality are participation in the political life of the country, in the economic life of the country and access to health and education. Among these 134 countries, based on the above criteria, Ukrainians lose the most in the level of representation in political life - in this rating Ukraine occupies as much as 105th place, although today there are fifty women in the Ukrainian parliament, which is 11% of its total composition (2). However, it is the highest number of women in the Verkhovna Rada in the history of independent Ukraine. With regard to the situation of women in the economy, the situation in Ukraine is more optimistic - 43rd. Women entrepreneurship in Ukraine is not a new phenomenon, but it still remains a topic of close attention and generates a number of discussions. According to research conducted by American and Ukrainian sociologists in January-March 2015, 77% of entrepreneurs are men. Among all sectors of the Ukrainian economy, most women entrepreneurs are involved in public catering, trade and services, and the least in the construction business. In addition, the larger the enterprise, the more likely it is to be headed by a man. Men generally occupy most of the leadership positions and receive, on average, 30% higher wages.

Ukraine received the highest rating in terms of access to education – 23rd place. Women and men have the same level of general education (100%) and equivalent access to primary and secondary education. In higher and vocational education, women are even more prevalent.

Domestic violence against women is one of the problems of Ukrainian society. The helplessness of the victim, the disillusionment of society with the possibility of getting help from the police, the corruption of the courts lead to the indifference of the victims' relatives, their witnesses and the community wholly.

**CONCLUSIONS.** Gender analysis of Ukrainian society has revealed the so-called problem areas that need active intervention by the state and the public. These

include employment, political, health, education, gender-based violence, trafficking in human beings, the situation of women with special needs, and women raising children with disabilities.

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